

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 20586 191838Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07

COME-00 OMB-01 /067 W

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O R 191739Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5249

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 20586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, GW

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT REGARDING UNFAIR COMPETITION

FOR US ARMY TANK

A GERMAN WIRE SERVICE (DPA) HAS PICKED UP THE DEC. 18 REPORT WRITTEN BY JOHN W. FINNEY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES RE THE GERMANS BEING UPSET BY THE U.S. ROLE IN THE TWO-NATION TANK COMPETITION. THE EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER WAS AWARE OF THE ARTICLE THIS MORNING. ACCORDING TO LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, THE FRG INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS UNFAIR COMPETITION DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE LEOPARD II. WE WERE TOLD THAT IF THE ALLEGATION WERE CORRECT, IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME TO THE ATTENTION OF FRG POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, THE FRG DOES NOT INTEND TO PURSUE THE MATTER NOW AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL. RATHER, THE FRG EMBASSY WILL PROBABLY BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES IN WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH NO INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT HAVE YET BEEN SENT. SHOULD THE ISSUE STILL REMAIN OPEN NEXT MONTH, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF LEBER BROUGHT

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PAGE 02 BONN 20586 191838Z

THE MATTER UP WITH SECRETARY RUMSFELD DURING THE NPG

MEETING IN HAMBURG.
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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